

This year, the House of Representatives has included \$2.6 million in the fiscal year 1999 Interior appropriations bill for completion of the National Historic Trails Center. Although this is only half of the money necessary to complete the project, I am extremely pleased the House took this action and recognized the importance of constructing this facility. Currently, the Senate version of the Interior appropriations bill does not include funds for the Trails Center. I understand the difficult funding choices faced by the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee as this bill was crafted, but I am extremely disappointed that the Senate version of this legislation did not provide funds for the Center.

As the Senate completes its work on the Interior appropriations bill and this legislation moves to a conference with the House, I plan to do everything I can to ensure that funds for the Historic Trails Center are included in the final bill. Clearly, this project has merit and would be a valuable addition to our nation's cultural and historic landmarks. Over the coming days, I plan to work with Senators GORTON and BYRD to ensure that the House funding level is protected during the conference on this legislation.

The National Historic Trails Interpretive Center is a worthy project. I urge the Senate to recede to the House language on this important measure and begin the process of completing this outstanding facility.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 15, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,511,724,391,342.63 (Five trillion, five hundred eleven billion, seven hundred twenty-four million, three hundred ninety-one thousand, three hundred forty-two dollars and sixty-three cents).

One year ago, September 15, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,375,122,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-five billion, one hundred twenty-two million).

Five years ago, September 15, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,388,003,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred eighty-eight billion, three million).

Ten years ago, September 15, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,598,251,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred ninety-eight billion, two hundred fifty-one million).

Fifteen years ago, September 15, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,354,786,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred fifty-four billion, seven hundred eighty-six million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,156,938,391,342.63 (Four trillion, one hundred fifty-six billion, nine hundred thirty-eight million, three hundred ninety-one thousand, three hundred forty-two dollars and sixty-three cents) during the past 15 years.

#### CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 1645, the Child Custody Protection Act. This bill makes it a federal offense to knowingly transport a minor girl across state lines to circumvent her home state's parental consent or notification laws and obtain an abortion. This bill sends an important message that we will support those states that have tried to protect minors from making a decision of this magnitude without the involvement of the parents. We should do everything we can to ensure that parents are able to exercise the responsibilities of guiding and protecting their children, and I applaud Senator ABRAHAM for his leadership on this issue.

A few of my constituents raised some concerns about S. 1645 that I would like to address. First, the bill imposes no burden on the right to an abortion, and it adds no new provisions or restrictions on state laws. S. 1645 is designed merely to preserve the integrity of parental involvement laws in states that have chosen to enact them. Second, the legislation does not violate the constitutional right to travel. Like the recently enacted Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act, the Child Custody Protection Act only punishes travel that is undertaken with the intent of dodging legitimate state laws. Third, in cases where teenagers are afraid to tell their parents, there are judicial bypass procedures to address these situations. A study performed by the American Journal of Public Health of these bypass procedures found that only 1 out of 477 girls was denied judicial authorization. Fourth, S. 1645 recognizes the role of states in ensuring that legal abortions are safe—to allow valid state laws to be avoided is to undermine the safety of the procedure and endanger the health of those minors. Fifth, parental involvement laws enjoy the support of 74 percent of Americans according to a 1996 Gallup poll. While S. 1645 does not alter any state's laws regarding abortion, it does ensure that states that do have these popular laws have a more realistic chance of enforcing them.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### REPORT OF THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996—PM 157

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message

from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

As required by the provisions of section 13, Public Law 806, 80th Congress (15 U.S.C. 714k), I transmit herewith the report of the Commodity Credit Corporation for fiscal year 1996.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 16, 1998.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2795. An act to extend certain contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and irrigation water contractors in Wyoming and Nebraska that receive water from Glendo Reservoir.

H.R. 2993. An act to provide for the collection of fees for the making of motion pictures, television productions, and sound tracks in National Park System and National Wildlife Refuge System units, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3445. An act to establish the Commission on Ocean Policy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3898. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to conform penalties for violations involving certain amounts of methamphetamine to penalties for violations involving similar amounts cocaine base.

H.R. 3903. An act to provide for an exchange of lands located near Gustavus, Alaska, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4002. An act to designate the United States Postal Service building located at 5300 West Jefferson Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Freeman Hankins Post Office Building".

H.R. 4003. An act to designate the United States Postal Service building located at 2037 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Max Weiner Post Office Building".

H.R. 4079. An act to authorize the construction of temperature control devices at Folsom Dam in California.

H.R. 4166. An act to amend the Idaho Admission Act regarding the sale or lease of school land.

H.R. 4284. An act to authorize the Government of India to establish a memorial to honor Mahatma Gandhi in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 4382. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for mammography quality standards.

H.J. Res. 117. Joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress in support of the existing Federal legal process for determining the safety and efficacy of drugs, including marijuana and other Schedule I drugs, for medicinal use.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of